

# The Fire Fighter Gazette

Issue 18

October 1999

## Fire Conference a tremendous success!

The hotels were perfectly located within walking distance of the IAFC sessions and exhibits.

The last Fire and Emergency Services Conference of this century was held in Kansas City, Missouri, and was one of the best conferences ever. The hotels were perfectly located within walking distance of the IAFC sessions and exhibits.

The hotel staff at the Kansas City Marriott went to extremes to ensure our needs were met, even as things changed at the last moment. Certainly a highlight of the conference was the fact that "most" of the DoD attendees were able to stay in the same hotel.

So what happened at this year's conference? Well, it was packed with seminars and exhibits. Things kicked off in earnest on Friday, with several MAJCOMs having meetings, as well as a Fire Department Accreditation meeting, and a SCBA integrated process team. On Saturday and Sunday the Air Force Fire Protection Stakeholders (formally known as the Quality Council) met, while most of the other folks checked out the new tools and equipment on display at the Bartle Hall Convention Center. The Fun Run/Walk was also held at O-Dark-Thirty Saturday morning.

On Monday, many of the MAJCOMs held meetings, and in the afternoon, Mr. **Phil Gibson** (HQ AFCESA) conducted an informative briefing about civilian



personnel issues.

Tuesday morning was the Air Force Joint Session, followed by the Air Force Fire Protection Recognition Session (see "Award Winners", on page 3).

Wednesday was the "big day", as all of DoD met together for a General Session. Various seminars were held throughout the day, with subjects that included: Counter Terrorism, Emergency Medical Services, Federal Laws, Fire Fighter Certification Program, and Fitness/Wellness. The way the seminars were set up, one person could go to three different seminars, so if two people from the installation were there, they could "divide and conquer", and attend all of them. The day culminated with the DoD Awards Banquet, a fantastic event that was very well attended. An article describing the evening's events, and all of the winners are on page 3 of this edition.

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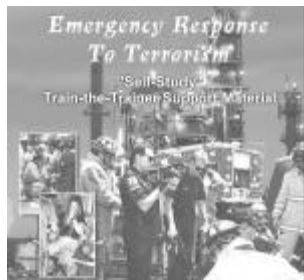
# Hazardous Material Emergency Response Training — Increasingly Critical in Light of Today's Terrorist Threat

by CMSgt Jim Podolske, HQ AFCEA, Tyndall AFB, Florida

The threat or use of hazardous materials as weapons of mass destruction is one of the most alarming of all transnational threats. The bombings at Oklahoma City, Khobar Towers and Atlanta's Olympic Park are just a few examples of instances where hazardous materials were used to destroy property and injure or kill innocent people.

To meet the terrorist challenge and better prepare emergency responders, we have partnered with the National Fire Academy to capitalize on training programs developed by the Department of Justice and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These programs were created following passage of the Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996, Public Law 104-201 (also known as the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Act).

Here's a look at the training programs that have been distributed to the medical community, security forces, explosive ordnance disposal flights, readiness flights and all DoD fire departments.



## ***Emergency Response to Terrorism (Self-Study) Course.***

This self-paced, paper-based course is designed to provide basic terrorism awareness training to emergency responders. The Self-Study course can also be taught to groups of students using the PowerPoint presentation

included on the Self-Study Support Material CD-ROM. An experienced instructor can complete the training in 2 to 3 hours using this method.

**Course Content.** The Self-Study course provides a basic overview of the following: definition and historical background of terrorism; recognizing suspicious circumstances and identifying key indicators (outward warning signs or cues); implementing self-protective measures (time, distance, and shielding); initial scene control; and making appropriate notification (activating response resources based on local/state emergency plans).

**Target Audience.** The target audience for this course includes fire, emergency medical, HazMat, incident command and law enforcement responders.

**Who Can Teach the Course?** Any DoD HazMat Train-the-Trainer course graduate is authorized to teach the awareness course material. Additionally, any experienced HazMat emergency responder who is DoD-certified at the HazMat awareness level is also authorized to teach the self-study course material.

## ***Emergency Response to Terrorism (Basic Concepts)***



**Course.** This two-day course is designed to prepare first responders for terrorist-related incidents, primarily at the operations level. It focuses on life safety and self-preservation.

**Course Content.** The Basic Concepts course provides an overview of the following: understanding/recognizing terrorism; implementing self-protective measures; scene control; tactical considerations; and incident management.

**Target Audience.** The primary audience includes fire, emergency medical, HazMat, incident command and law enforcement responders.

**Who Can Teach the Course?** Only DoD HazMat Train-the-Trainer course graduates or National Fire Academy Emergency Response to Terrorism "Basic Concepts" Train-the-Trainer course graduates are authorized to teach this 16-hour course.

## ***Emergency Response to Terrorism (Multimedia) Course.***

This fully interactive, computer-based training program is designed to help emergency responders understand their role and increase their chances for safe and successful responses to incidents involving terrorism.

**Course Content.** The Multimedia course combines several learning objectives taught in the Self-Study and Basic Concepts courses and also includes the terrorism competencies listed in NFPA Standard 472: *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents (1997 edition)* at the awareness, operations, technician and incident commander levels.

**Target Audience.** The target audience includes fire, emergency medical, HazMat, incident command and law enforcement responders.

**Who Can Teach the Course?** This is a stand-alone, self-paced course that does not require an instructor. However, students who need assistance should contact a DoD HazMat Train-the-Trainer course graduate.

Students who complete the terrorism training courses are eligible to receive a Department of Justice/Federal Emergency Management Agency training certificate for the Self-Study and Basic Concepts course and a DoD training certificate for the Multimedia

(Continued on page 3)



## Terrorism...

course. For additional information, please refer to Chapter 6 of the 1998 CerTest Procedural Guide.

**Hazardous Materials Technician Emergency Response Training Program.** We are proud to announce the release of



the Hazardous Materials Technician multimedia training program. Each Air Force major command and DoD Service Component Fire and Emergency Services representative was provided one copy of this program during the 1999 DoD Fire and Emergency Service Conference in

Kansas City, Mo., in September.

**Course Content.** This powerful, interactive multimedia training program is designed to train and certify emergency responders at the HazMat technician level. Most importantly, this program, along with local hands-on training exercises, prepares emergency responders to take offensive actions necessary to safely and successfully detect, assess, contain and control dangerous hazardous material releases. This program also includes an Emergency Response to Terrorism training module directed at today's most alarming emerging threat — terrorist acts using weapons of mass destruction.

This program complies with OSHA 1910.120q6(iii) and NFPA 472.

**Target Audience.** The fire department's HazMat emergency response team is the primary target audience for this course.

**Who Can Teach the Course?** This is a stand-alone, self-paced course that does not require an instructor. To become DoD-certified at the technician level, students who complete this training course are also required to pass the CerTest computer-based testing program final exam along with the required performance tests listed in the performance test supplement found on the 1998 HazMat Support Material CD-ROM (Version 3.0).

For questions concerning these training courses, contact **CMSgt Jim Podolske** or **TSgt Bruce Grabbe** at the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency: DSN 523-6321 or 6221, respectively, or e-mail jim.podolske@tyndall.af.mil or bruce.grabbe@tyndall.af.mil. Requests for additional copies of these training CDs must be made in writing to HQ AFCEA/CEXF.

## Award Winners!

The DoD Fire and Emergency Services Annual Awards Banquet was held in Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the IAFC and DoD conference.

The event was very well attended (over 800), and included many of the traditional activities we have grown to expect at this ceremony. The Fallen Fire



Fighter Ceremony was especially riveting. After dinner and the guest speaker, the main event began — the awards program.

CMSgt Podolske conducted the Fallen Fire Fighter Ceremony.

The nominees for the **DoD Military Fire Fighter** of the Year were:

Staff Sergeant **Donald P. Ray**, Fire Inspector, 336th Engineer Fire Fighting Detachment, Milwaukee, WI.

Senior Airman **Delton J. Tills III** Fire Fighter, USAF Academy, CO.

Corporal **Robert KC Cole III**, Aircraft Fire Fighting Division, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC.

Damage Controlman Second Class **David Santillo**, Integrated Support Command Kodiak, AK.

And the winner is....  
**Delton J. Tills III**

The nominees for the **DoD Civilian Fire Fighter** of the Year:

**Peter M. Queior**, Fort Drum, NY

**David L. Lanier**, NAS Jacksonville, FL

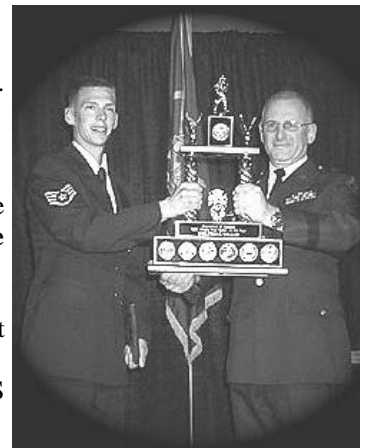
**Tetsuro Hayashi**, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan

**Michael Barry**, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, AZ

**Kenneth L. Nelson**, Defense Depot, San Joaquin, CA

**Jeffery D. Halcomb**, Integrated Support Command, Kodiak, AK.

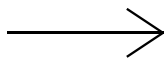
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## Winners...

(Continued from page 3)

And the winner is...**Tetsuro Hayashi**



The nominees for the **DoD Fire and Emergency Services Department** of the Year:

**Fort Carson, Colorado**  
**NAS Willow Grove, Pennsylvania**  
**Little Rock AFB, Arkansas**  
**Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan**  
**Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Virginia**  
**US Coast Guard, Kodiak, Alaska**



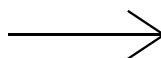
From the US Air Force, Moody AFB, Georgia:

**David LaPlante**, Fire Fighter

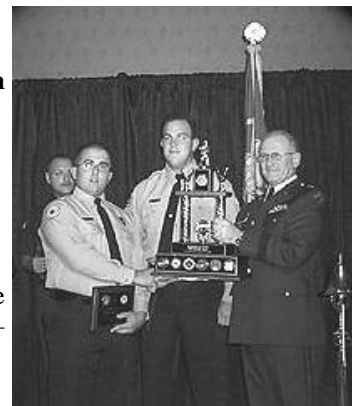
From the US Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona:

**Michael Batson**, Fire Fighter/Paramedic

And the Winners are....**Crispin Bottari** and **Robert Minter**



Congratulations to each of the nominees, and the winners — well deserved by each of them!



## More Awards!

Congratulations to Fire Captain **Robert L. Gill** from McClellan AFB, California for being selected for the 1999 Hall of Fame Award from the California State Firefighter's Association (CSFA) and the US Safety & Engineering Cooperation.

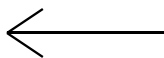
The award honors a member of the California fire service who has contributed significantly to the fire service in their local community. Selection criteria was based on:

Contribution to the fire service in general  
Contribution to the nominee's community  
Contribution to the Fire Department

Fire Captain Gill received the award on September 18, 1999 in Redding, California at the 77th CSFA Conference.



And the winner is...**Little Rock AFB** (see related story, page 5).



The nominees for the **DoD Heroism Award** were:

From the US Army, Rock Island Arsenal Fire and Emergency Services

Division (Illinois):

**James Bickert**, Assistant Chief  
**Terry McMaster**, Captain  
**Jerry Shackleford**, Fire Fighter  
**Richard Boring**, Fire Fighter  
**Thomas Nabb**, Fire Fighter/Paramedic  
**James Crozier**, Fire Fighter/Paramedic  
**Douglas Smutzer**, Fire Fighter/Paramedic

From the US Navy, AUTEC Fire Rescue, West Palm Beach, Florida:

**Crispin Bottari**, Fire Fighter/EMT  
**Robert Minter**, Fire Fighter/EMT

## Edwards Fire Fighters going to World Championship!

Five Firefighters from Edwards became regional champions in the Firefighter Combat Challenge held at the Irvine Spectrum Center in Orange County, California, July 10, 1999.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a fast paced, physical competition, according to team captain, **Sam Billington**.

The firefighters competed in the relay team portion of the competition, defeating three other Southern California teams. The team had to complete the five relay events in under two minutes to qualify for the World Championships, which are scheduled to be held in Las Vegas Nov 3 through 6, 1999. The team's qualifying time was 1 minute, 56.71 seconds.

"The events are simulations of tasks the firefighter might encounter at a scene," Said Billington.

**Event 1:** Tower Climb and High Rise Pack Carry. The competitor must carry a 44-pound "High Rise Pack" of hose up five flights of stairs.

**Event 2:** Hose Hoist. The competitor must raise a 45-pound rolled-up hose five flights using a rope. The "donut roll" must be placed on the tower before the firefighter runs down the stairs to pass on the flashlight, a substitute for a baton, to a team member participating in the third event.

**Event 3:** Keiser Sled. In this event, the competitor must drive 160-pound steel I-beam five feet with a 9-pound mallet.

**Event 4:** Hose Advance. The competitor must advance a charged fire hose 75 feet and hit a designated target.

**Event 5:** Victim Rescue. The competitor must simulate a rescue by dragging a 185-pound "Rescue Randy" 100 feet to the finish line.

Team members and their events are: Team Captain **Sam Billington**, Hose Advance; **James Haner**, Victim Rescue; **Senior Airman Ryan Hoffman**, Keiser Sled; **Airman Paul Remley**, Tower Climb; and **Don Richert**, Hose Hoist.

Prizes the team received included flashlights valued at more than \$120, T-shirts, individual plaques, a plaque for the department, carbon monoxide detectors and a one-year subscription to *Rescue Magazine*.

Team Captain, **Sam Billington**, pulling a charged hose line during the competition.

## Little Rock AFB wins coveted Sanborn Award

Little Rock AFB was the most recent recipient of the CMSgt Ralph Sanborn Award for the best fire department in the Air Force. Although this is "old" news, we wanted to take this opportunity to correct an error from the previous edition of the Fire Fighter Gazette. Our apologies to Chief **Harry Stringfellow** and his fine department. As stated on page 3, the Little Rock AFB Fire Department competed against our sister services, and was selected as the best fire department in all of DoD. Here are some excerpts from their award-winning package:

- Tornado struck in Jun 98, causing \$600K damage to 80+ base facilities — our fire fighters "carried the load"
- Heroic fire fighter saved 2 lives after a major car crash on a desolate Missouri highway
- Made the difference during an off-base accident involving two school buses; administered life-saving medical care to more than 30 injured students and established Flight-for-Life landing zone
- Rapid response and extinguishment of dorm fire limited damage to \$2.5K of a \$5.4M facility
- Only AF fire department rated "Outstanding" during a grueling Operational Readiness Inspection
- Cut construction costs for 14 projects totaling \$953K; saved precious dollars and still ensured life safety codes were met — best of both worlds!
- Supplied 1,699 man-days supporting contingencies in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Hungary, and Italy

Congratulations to Chief Stringfellow and his staff!



## New Technology

A new environmentally-friendly aircraft fire trainer made its debut at **Kadena AB** on July 2 in front of nearly 140 off-base firefighters. According to the base fire chief, **CMSgt Anthony Rabonza**, the Mobile Aircraft Fire Trainer will improve safety, create less smoke, increase training effectiveness and reduce training costs. Only the third operational unit in the Air Force, the MAFT cost Pacific Air Forces \$459,000. But to hear firefighters talk about it, it's priceless. "This state-of-the-art equipment is a long time in coming," said CMSgt Rabonza. "It's something very functional for us and the base. We can transport this anywhere, set it up in about four hours and start training." It can also be used to help bring together Kadena's community with other island towns, according to **Brigadier General James B. Smith**, 18th Wing commander. "We have to find ways to do things together," Smith said. "We have the same challenges in fire-fighting training. What you'll see is a new way of working together so the next time you see black smoke, everybody will know we'll be working as one to protect our people." The biggest difference between the old JP-8 Live Fire Training system and MAFT is the amount of smoke produced. Since the JP-8 system belched large columns of black smoke, firefighters had to notify off-base officials before each training session. But even after notification, if winds were going to blow the smoke into local townships, fire training was canceled. Since the Mobile Aircraft Fire Trainer uses 250-gallon propane tanks to produce fire, the only smoke produced must be created by a smoke generator. "It may not be the same kind of fire that firefighters are used to, as far as billowing smoke, but they still have fire in front of them, the heat is there, and they can train," said Rabonza. JP-8 fires cost \$800 per fire to train between six to eight firefighters. Fuel was poured over the trainer, lighted, then had to be doused using fire fighting foam or left to burn out. The Mobile Aircraft Fire Trainer reduces the training cost per firefighter to \$3. Since the fires are controlled by a technician located a few yards away from the system, MAFT allows firefighters to train in multiple scenarios in any of the 16 fire locations at one time. Want a fire in the wing? Poof! The controller starts the wing on fire with the flick of a switch. "Our controllers can keep the burn going as long as they want so we can improve our training techniques," said **MSgt Tim Bosch**, 18th CES firefighter and MAFT trainer. "One of the biggest benefits of the new system is that we can keep it going and control the intensity of the fire." Rabonza added, "With the new system, firefighters fight the fire and when we believe they've done everything correctly, the controller pushes a button and the fire is out." "Many Air

Force bases don't have fire-training devices because of environmental concerns of smoke and leftover fuel," said Rabonza. Kadena's old training area has an underground impermeable lining that contains any seeping fuel. It's basically a gravel pit that firefighters had to train upon. "We have nearly a perfectly-contained system, for firefighter safety, training and the environment," Bosch said. "Plus, it's mobile." The firefighters believe that MAFT's mobility increases the realism of fire training. They plan to use the new trainer with wing exercises to simulate different crash scenarios around the base. Firefighters even plan to take the system off base and train with the local fire stations. "It's going to be a fantastic chance to bring all the fire departments together as one," said Rabonza.



## Vacancy Announcements

Received from J.A. Jones Management Services:

We are in need of an Assistant Chief for Operations at Moron AFB, Spain. Requirements are 10 years experience, 3 in crash and rescue, 2 as a supervisor. Must speak read and write Spanish. We also have an opening for a Fire Inspector. If interested, please contact: Chuck Murtorff, J.A. Jones Management Services, 1-800-331-5472, Fax: 1-704-553-4408 E-Mail: cmurtof@jajms

Received from Mr. Hugh Pike:

The City Of Los Angeles is looking for Airport Fire Fighters. They have sent me a flyer that is too detailed to send to everyone. The hiring official called me--so they are apparently interested in ex-DoD fire fighters. If someone is interested, have them give me a call at DSN 523-6214, and I will give them the details.

# Stuff...

## CD of the Month Club

A new CD has been released by the Air Force. It will never make the top 10 chart, but you might want to add it to your library anyway. It's a CD ROM version of Technical Order 105E-9 "Aircraft Emergency Rescue Information". Paper versions of the document are no longer available. The next version (3.0) will include Navy and Marine aircraft. If you were on automatic distribution, you should have already received your copy. If you didn't receive it, you need to request a copy on your department's letterhead. Send the request to:

Mr. Thomas Stemphoski  
TRW Federal Contractor  
HQ AFCESA/CEXF  
139 Barns Drive Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-5319

## New Truck

The Air Force has awarded it's first commercial ARFF vehicle contract to RJI Corporation, Newark, California. The contract is for 5 air transportable "Jaguars". The vehicles will be delivered to "Air Combat Command".

## Loss of a Fire Fighter

We regret to inform you of the loss of **MSgt David Mandl**, who served as Chief, Fire Protection Contingency Operations, at Det 1, 823rd RHS/CEOF. MSgt Mandl passed away on Sunday, 3 Oct 99.

## Chiefs are working Holidays

Federal firefighters are generally entitled to a special form of compensation that bars them from receiving holiday premium pay. Under current law, any firefighter with a regular tour of duty that averages 53 hours or more per week is compensated under special basic pay and overtime pay rules. By law, these firefighters are not entitled to any other form of premium pay, including holiday premium pay. The current law became effective in October 1998. Certain firefighters have a regular 40-hour tour of duty and do not receive any type of special compensation. These firefighters would be entitled to holiday premium pay on the same basis as regular employees.

Federal firefighters paid under special firefighter pay provisions are required to work on a holiday at their normal pay rate, with no entitlement to holiday premium pay. They are not covered by the normal holiday rules.

An individual firefighter may be permitted to take annual or sick leave on a holiday. In rare circumstances in which an agency determines that firefighters' services are not required on a particular holiday, the agency may at its discretion grant these firefighters excused absence with pay, without charge to leave.

Firefighters' pay under the special firefighter pay provisions is considered to be complete compensation for all hours of work, taking into account the fact that firefighters may work at night and on Sundays and holidays due to the nature of their work. This same concept applied when firefighters received standby duty premium pay (before October 1998). In both cases, there is a presumption that employees will perform duty on holidays falling within their regularly scheduled tours of duty.

*Thanks, to Bruce Valoris from Pay and Leave Administration and Phil Gibson, HQ AFCESA, for this clarification*

## How to be really annoying during your bike test

1. Wear a bike safety helmet to the test. Optional: Include knee and elbow pads.
2. Demand the tester wear a reflective road guard vest "for safety".
3. Bring a bike horn and attach it. Each time the tester adjusts the tension, honk the horn loudly and yell "Get out of the way you idiot!"
4. Bring a bike bell and attach it. Ring it once every 15 seconds "just to maintain your rhythm."
5. Attach streamers to the hand grips.
6. Bring a playing card to the test. Demand that it be inserted in the spokes.
7. Pop a wheelie. Optional: Bunny hop the bike.
8. At the beginning of the test, peddle while standing. Tell the tester "I'm going uphill now, you doofus."
9. Halfway through the test, stop peddling and lower your head between the handle bars and stick your backside in the air. Explain to the tester "I'm coasting downhill!!!!"
10. Signal all turns.
11. Make motorcycle sounds. Be sure to shift gears when the tester changes the tension.
12. Bring a sack of newspapers. Deliver them.
13. Periodically extend legs and arms, yelling "Look Ma, no hands!"
14. Bring a friend to ride on the handle bars. Optional: Attach a kiddie seat to the back. Bring your kid.
15. Bring a bike lock. Be sure to secure the bike when you leave.